

Wilderness House Literary Review 5/4

Changming Yuan

At Fraser River Park: Off-Leash Dogs Welcome

One dog is chasing a crazy vampire
Another jumping high to catch a flying heart
A third licking at the wound of a deformed cat
While two are dancing with ghosts as if in a quartet
Three biting at their owner's shoulders
Four howling loudly towards the bleeding sun
Five sniffing around baby limbs scattered along a ditch
Six listening attentively to the roars of an unseen volcano
Seven shaking a dragon's saliva violently off their bodies

As more are driving humans and hyenas alike
Into the river, a river full of dog shit

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Imperial Standard

All this time
You say this
This, this, this, this, and this
But you are doing that
That, that, that, that, and that

Aren't you a politician
Or a spokesman
For dear Uncle Sam?

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Global Perspective

With the world's bluest eyes
The cat can certainly see
Deeper, wider, farther, clearer
Than the sky
Even in total darkness

Is it all
Because the cat has eaten
Plenty of fish
And mice?

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Short Cuts to Celebrity

Put on the most fashionable clothing

Try to use Ipad, Ipad or Ipal before all others

Take a picture with the president (dead or alive)

Eat a dinner with Buffet, Hawking, Clint Eastwood

Get an autograph from Tiger Woods, Oprah, Bill Gates

Stay in the same hotel as Steve Jobs, Rush Limbaugh, Jim Wales

Better to get some smell when Brad Pitt, Miley Cyrus or Angelina Jolie

Happens to be farting around

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Another Difference

Listen, the TV guys are now
Talking about Iranians, North Koreans
Russians, even Chinese
As if they were not barbarians
As if they were not demons

So don't say again
There is no progress in our American civilization

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The Fengshui Rule for Yang Residence

Don't live in an grotesque-looking house
At the bottom of a valley
With all doors in straight lines

Above all, don't dream in a legless bed
Right under a chandelier
However exquisite

Or you would be haunted by a devil

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The Fengshui Rule for Yin Residence

Let your body be buried
On a wooded ridge
Higher than all houses

Let your soul squat
At an evergreen treetop
Watching the rising sun

(Better like my grandma
Too poor to have a coffin)

Then one of your offspring
Will be a statesman
A maneybag
Or a literate star

(Like me)

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X Missing: Provincial Proverbs

Affection blinds season
Beauty may have fair flower, but ugly roots
Caesar's wife must be above suspension
Drink only with the luck
Enough is as good as a beast
Fire that's closest kept burns most in the fall
Good face is better than a good base
Handsome is as handsome buzz
Injuries are written in glass
Jill has every jack
Knowledge is no burden
Love is full of beer, love is without season
Money is often lost for want of honey
Nature is above nurture
One man's feat is another man's shit
Present to the eye, present to the kind
Question for question is filled with air
Reward and punishment are the calls of pity
Slow but sure wins the race
Trust is the mother of defeat
United we band, divided we call
Variety is the spice for a wife
Willows are weak but never bend for good
Youth never lasts for peril
Zeal without knowledge is a runaway source